

The Utah Commission on Volunteers

# Volunteer Voice

A newsletter for those in the volunteer and service sectors in Utah

## From the Executive Director...

2007 has been an exciting year at the Commission on Volunteers! Highlights include having David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, attend our Conference on Service on May 21 & 22 to give the George W. Romney keynote address and present awards for outstanding service to Shannon D. Miller, Angela Morgan, Chloe Dauwalder, Violet B. Honey, Paulynn Hacking, Judith Lang, Volunteers of America/Utah, and Zions Bank. The "Seasons of Service" campaign was also launched at the Conference, with international music presenters Steve and Lisa James providing a backdrop of high energy songs, dances, and messages about service. "Seasons of Service" includes the Family Resource Guide to Service with a music CD, which was given to Conference attendees to help them promote youth service in their own families and communities. The 2007 Summer of Service concluded with an awards event at Jordan Ridge Elementary School where Lt. Governor Gary Herbert recognized four outstanding young volunteers. The focus of the "Seasons of Service" campaign this year is on youth service, with five concerts planned from Lehi to St. George to Ogden.



Lani Nisbet, LaDawn Stoddard, Kathy Smith, Candace Powers, Pam Davidson, Rick Pehrson, Lon Stuart, Mike David



David Eisner, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service, and Kathy Smith, Director of the Utah Commission on Volunteers, present Violet B. Honey with the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award. Terra Sue Robinson, Kane County Volunteer Center Director, accompanied her grandmother to the Awards Banquet on May 22, 2007.

The Commission is very pleased to welcome three new staff members this fall – Pam Davidson as Executive Secretary, and Rick Pehrson and Michael David as AmeriCorps members who will serve for a year as Team Leaders for the Youth Volunteer Corps of America program. Rick and Mike will inspire and motivate youth to become leaders in service and volunteering through the "Seasons of Service" campaign, the annual Youth Summit, and during a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at the State Capitol Rededication and Open House in January of 2008.

The reopening of the State Capitol will be an historic event with a week of activities planned beginning with the Rededication Ceremony on Statehood Day, January 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing all week with daily Open Houses, concluding on January 12 with Discovery Day. Literally hundreds of volunteers will be needed as ushers and guides. Contact Rick or Mike at the Commission on Volunteers, 538-8697, to sign up now!

## Citizen Corps Update

The mission of Citizen Corp is to bring citizens, local government, first responders, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, schools, utility companies, civic organizations, and all other key stakeholders together to help educate citizens and coordinate volunteer activities to make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to and recover from any emergency or disaster situation.

Great things have been happening with Utah's Citizen Corps Councils this year:

- The Be Ready Utah campaign has been a feature of Safe Kids Fairs, the Utah Home & Remodeling Show, a statewide Sam's Club Preparedness Weekend, the VA Hospital Emergency Preparedness Open House, and the Utah State Fair.
- Davis County, Wasatch County, Utah County, Kearns City, Willard City, Sunset City, Santaquin, and North Salt Lake have created new Citizen Corps Councils for a total of 67 councils in Utah.
- Monica Colby, Utah State Fire Marshall's Office and State Volunteer Program Manager for Fire Corps, conducted two workshops on "Wildfire Preparedness – Make Your Space". Fire Corps is represented by 8 programs statewide. <http://www.utahfireinfo.gov/prevention/MakeYourSpace.htm>

- Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Dept., and State Volunteer Program Manager for Medical Reserve Corps, meets monthly with the MRC Board, collaborates on legislation relating to liability and funding issues regarding MRC, and works closely with the Utah Department of Health to create a critically important cadre of professional and citizen volunteers prepared to help and support the medical needs of our state during an emergency or disaster. There are 13 Medical Reserve Corps units in Utah. [www.utahmrc.org](http://www.utahmrc.org)
- Neighborhood Watch continues to grow throughout the state. The Utah Council for Crime Prevention's 10th Annual Power in Prevention Conference is November 7 – 10 at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. For more information visit <http://www.utacrimprevention.org>
- Millard County Citizen Corps postponed their county wide CERT mock disaster exercise in lieu of a real disaster- the Millard Flats wildfire. CERT teams were used in communication efforts as well as checking on the welfare of residents using oxygen and those with other breathing difficulties.
- Sandy City CCC received great news coverage when they officially started their Volunteers In Police Service program. There are 20 VIPS organizations are registered in Utah, see: [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org)



## Important Upcoming Trainings

**November 9th, 2007:** VIPS Training for Law Enforcement Agencies and Representatives, visit [www.policevolunteers.org/events](http://www.policevolunteers.org/events)

**November 10th, 2007:** Building Resilient Communities Training, visit [www.volunteers.utah.gov](http://www.volunteers.utah.gov)

**November 29 - December 1, 2007:** Teen CERT Train-the-Trainer for School and Youth Leaders, visit [www.volunteers.utah.gov](http://www.volunteers.utah.gov)

**February 20th - 21st, 2008:** Gathering of Seagulls Conference, (more information to come).

## CERT Advisory Board established, Steve Rundquist retires as CERT Program Director

Steve Rundquist retired from public service with the state of Utah in June, after serving as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Director at the Utah Commission on Volunteers for 16 months. One of Steve's goals, to establish a CERT Advisory Board, was accomplished on June 27, 2007. The UCAB is comprised of 20 volunteer representatives who were selected by their peers as officers and committee leaders to provide guidance and training for local programs. Janet Lindquist, CERT Program Coordinator for Millard County Sheriff's Office, chairs the UCAB, with Jay Fearnley, Lana Carter and DeVaughn Simper serving as executive officers.

## Miss Utah: Jill Stevens

Jill Stevens, of Davis County, was recently crowned the new Miss Utah. Jill is a wonderful example of service to her community and her country. She is a youth member of the Utah Commission on Volunteers, and a member of 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, Utah National Guard. Jill is a combat veteran, having served as a medic on an 18-month tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 1-211th in 2004-05.

Jill graduated this spring from SUU as registered nurse, and said she plans to use the \$10,000 scholarship prize for her master's degree toward a career as a nurse practitioner in the emergency medicine field.

## Be Ready Utah

"Be Ready Utah" was launched in April of 2006 by Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert to promote and encourage emergency preparedness by individuals, families, neighborhoods, communities, schools, and businesses.

The call to action is Be Informed, Make a Plan, Get a Kit, and Volunteer.



Be ready for an emergency or disaster!!  
[www.BeReadyUtah.org](http://www.BeReadyUtah.org)

## Ready Your Family

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere—at work at school or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe?

Families can—and do—cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

### 4 Steps to Safety

1. Find out what could happen to you
2. Create a disaster plan
3. Complete preparedness checklists
4. Practice and maintain your plan

For more information visit <http://beready.utah.gov/family.html>

## Preparedness Checklists

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for emergency help.
- Show each family how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher and show them where it's kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

## VISTA Project Update

### United Way of Northern Utah: Bruce Perry

Each month Bruce attends and participates in Weber County CERT exercise and training. For the past 3 months Bruce has been actively engaged in helping initiate organizational structure of the Medical Reserve Corps of Davis County. He is active in the Weber-Morgan and Davis County MRC organizations, reviewing response planning documents and training schedules. Bruce is vigorous in distribution of the Special Needs Register information within the Weber-Morgan Counties. He supplied information for an article in the newsletter for the Northern Utah Center for Independent Living in Logan entitled "Options for Independence".

### Layton City: Annie Quon

Annie has focused her term of service as a VISTA member on organizing the Citizen Corps pillar in the Layton area. She helps to train District Coordinators on the role of Citizen Corps, and how local faith-based congregations can support it. Jim Mason, Emergency Manager for Layton City, states, "We emphasize that Citizen Corps is a community volunteer organization and show what kind of training we provide to Neighborhood Coordinators. We also suggest emergency preparedness training that might be appropriate for religious groups, and how they can dovetail their efforts effectively with the City and Citizen Corps Council to avoid duplication of efforts."

### Salt Lake City Emergency Preparedness: Richard Foster

Rich works directly with the poverty population and those with special needs. He conducts dozens of Emergency Preparedness presentations each month. At most events there are from 30 to 100 people in attendance, but once he had 500 people attend!

Rich is dedicated to this population and is taking Spanish Classes to better serve the Hispanic; he is also taking sign language classes to better serve those that are deaf. He works with a group that translates Citizen Corps and pillar program pamphlets into Braille for the blind.

### Utah Commission on Volunteers: Lon Stuart

Lon Stuart comes to the Utah Commission on Volunteers with a myriad of experience in the work place, including over nine years as a writer for the Associated Press (AP) Wire Service, covering news events in Salt Lake City, Louisville, Kentucky, New York City, and San Francisco.

After a move to Utah from San Francisco, Lon was active in emergency preparedness for the City of North Salt Lake for a number of years, working with the local police chief to organize residents into block emergency response teams. When CERT came into being, the city started training volunteers. Lon and his wife, Colleen, are both CERT trained.

Lon assists Utah Citizen Corps Program Manager, Lani Nisbet, with the promotion of Citizen Corps and its pillar programs at events, trainings, and conferences.



## The First Ever AmeriCorps Week! Utah Members Get Involved



This year the U.S. House of Representatives expressed its strong appreciation for AmeriCorps and its important contribution to our nation by overwhelmingly passing a resolution recognizing May 13-20 as the first ever National AmeriCorps Week.

House Resolution 385, which passed by a 346-21 vote, "acknowledges the significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps members, alumni and community partners; recognizes the important contribution to the lives of our citizens by AmeriCorps members; and encourages citizens of all ages to participate in service opportunities in their communities, including in AmeriCorps programs."



Utah commemorated the week by gathering AmeriCorps members, grantees, program partners, and friends to participate in a large service project. The 2007 AmeriCorps Member training culminated with a mega-service project at City Academy which included resurfacing the sport court, painting the school bus, yard cleanup, grow boxes built and placed in the front of the school, kitchen detailing and a much needed paint job. All the activities were photographed and compiled for a slide show presented at the annual Utah Conference on Service the following week.

AmeriCorps week marked an historic milestone – this spring, the 500,000th AmeriCorps member will take the pledge to "get things done for America". Service with AmeriCorps provides opportunities to improve our communities while making better leaders and citizens through service.

## 2007 Utah Youth Summit

The 2007 Annual Youth Leadership Summit, "Setting the Pace," was held June 12-14 on the University of Utah campus. This year's summit was co-sponsored by the Community of Caring, Utah State Office of Education, Utah Federation for Youth, Learning for Life, Utah PTA, and the Commission on Volunteers.

Teams from across the state consisting of four students, grades 8-12, and one supervisor were given a wealth of

strategies and ideas aimed at empowering each student to impact their own schools and communities, as well as the world around them through civic engagement and collaboration with other student leaders. Former NFL Minnesota Vikings quarterback, Keith Nord, led the teams in interactive discussions and activities promoting student leadership, team-building, ethics, and engaging the student voice.

A highlight of the summit was the opportunity for the students to participate in a meaningful service learning project. The students learned about Utah's Native American heritage and then participated in a project putting together backpacks with school supplies to be distributed to Native American youth.

## Outstanding Youth Volunteers Recognized with Summer of Service Awards

### Kara Peart

Kara Peart, of Layton Utah, has served the Layton Youth Court since 2001 and has volunteered over 1530 hours in numerous leadership capacities with Youth Court and the Davis County Youth of Promise. Kara also received the Daily Point of Light Award on September 12, 2007, awarded to one outstanding individual in the nation each day.

### Sara Guggisburg

Sara Guggisburg has worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Utah for over two years. She also put on a Relay for Life event at Murray High School this summer, volunteered with Murray's Arts in the Park Series, and helped with the "Up with Children" outdoor theatre production. Sara also participated in other smaller projects, including running table top expos to recruit new members, setting up a Murray City booth at the county fair, and helping with projects for "The Power In Parents," cleaning up yards and homes of the elderly, delivering groceries to "shut ins," and running "Candidates Night" for the city. She has received a scholarship to Brigham Young University and another from the Murray Exchange club for her contributions.



Outstanding volunteers recognized at the 2007 Summer of Service Awards, September 10, were Kara Peart, Sara Guggisburg, Chelsey Knight, and Chelsea Gould. Presenting the awards was Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert.



### Chelsey Knight

Chelsey Knight volunteered with the Youth Chamber of Utah, and was able to participate in several programs throughout the summer, including the Utah Youth Summit. There she helped fill backpacks with school supplies for Native American children on a southern Utah reservation. As a volunteer at the High School Rugby Championships, Chelsey managed volunteers to keep the event running smoothly. Chelsey also directed young children around the Wheeler Farm complex as a volunteer and introduced them to Utah's Pioneer Heritage.

### Chelsea Gould

Chelsea Gould is a devoted member of Operation Smile, serving a humanitarian mission in Guadalajara, Mexico. Chelsea also served a five-week humanitarian mission in Kenya, working in orphanages, donating clothing, shoes and school supplies, and planting gardens. Chelsea was chosen as the State of Utah's Young Humanitarian for 2007 by YouthLINC, a Utah based non-profit organization hoping to instill life-long service in young people.

## VISTA Project Update Continued...

### **State Fire Marshall's Office: Chelsey Short and Ashley Stokes**

Ashley and Chelsey are creating fire safety programs for others to use and are involved in activities such as "Wildfire Preparedness-Make Your Space" and "Utah State Fair: Escape Without Delay". The fire alarm campaign has been launched. Every fire department has received information, and literature is available on the web. Chelsey created several useful documents and is distributing them to fire departments. She also created a display for the State Fair that is being duplicated for other departments to use across the state.

Ashley related this story illustrating how her VISTA service saved her life. While researching statistics of fire fatalities she learned that when people die in a fire it is not always from the burns, but is often caused by Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning. Some time later, while standing in her kitchen she developed a sudden headache and nausea. From her research she recognized her symptoms as signs of CO poisoning. Consequently, she placed a CO detector in her kitchen. A week later, on the day of the first snow, she turned the thermostat up. At 2:30 AM the CO detector went off. She and her roommate escaped the home with the animals and called the fire department. It was discovered that the furnace was no longer attached to where the exhaust was leaving the home and was emitting 9,999 ppm; a reading that went as high as the CO indicator could show. She was told by the fire department and Questar that she and her roommate would more than likely not have awakened without the alarm. She is grateful for her VISTA training which enabled her to walk out alive from this experience.